

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7181

BILL NUMBER: HB 1552

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Disclosures on Political Communications.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Grubb

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill provides that certain information must be disclosed as part of a communication relating to the election of a candidate or the solicitation of a political contribution whether the communication is written, by telephone, or by electronic mail or other means of electronic communication. It repeals the current statute requiring disclaimers to accompany certain political communications. The bill makes technical changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: *Summary:* The bill adds new requirements for election communications to include communications made by telephone, e-mail, or other forms of electronic communication. A person in violation of the bill's provisions would commit a Class A misdemeanor.

Penalty Provision: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class A misdemeanor is \$5,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Penalty Provision:* A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would

likely be small.

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.